

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Applicant respectfully requests the following amendments to the claim set:

1 – 22 (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) An abrasion and massage apparatus for use on a patient, the apparatus comprising:

a vacuum generator;

~~means for delivering and retrieving material to and from a selected site to be abraded;~~

a massage head ~~delivery and retrieval hand piece~~, coupled to the vacuum generator, ~~delivery and retrieval means, the delivery and retrieval hand piece~~ the massage head in combination with the vacuum generator comprising:

means for generating an area of negative pressure along a dermal surface of the patient; and

means for applying positive pressure to the patient's skin that is undergoing the negative pressure; and

~~means for moving the area of negative pressure along the surface of the patient while continuing to apply the positive pressure; and~~

an dermabrasion system ~~abrasive handling device, coupled to the hand piece~~, comprising:

a dermabrasion hand piece coupled to the vacuum generator and configured to deliver an abrasive material;

an abrasive material supply device;

a receiving channel; coupled to the supply device;
a feeding chamber; coupled to the receiving channel;
a delivery channel; coupled to the feeding chamber and to the
dermabrasion hand piece; and
a waste retrieval holding device, coupled to the dermabrasion hand piece,
to collect and store the delivered abrasive material and waste
debris after treatment.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the
abrasive material supply device gravity feeds the abrasive material to the feeding
chamber.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the
receiving channel extends within the feeding chamber ~~sufficient enough to~~ and controls
the amount of abrasive material filling the feeding chamber.

27. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the feeding
chamber comprises a top, a bottom, and generally inwardly sloped walls from the top to
the bottom.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 27 wherein the abrasive material supply device comprises generally inwardly sloping walls with an opening at the bottom coupled to the receiving channel.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the delivery channel connects to an inverted generally funnel-shaped collector channel used to receive abrasive material within the feeding chamber and to direct it ~~to the abrasive material~~ to the delivery channel.

30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the ~~material-waste~~ retrieval holding device comprises a filter.

31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the dermabrasion hand piece comprises a supply aperture and a return aperture.

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the dermabrasion hand piece comprises a removable tip that ~~has an aperture that contacts the~~ a dermal surface of the patient that is to be abraded.

33. (Currently Amended) A dermal abrasion and massage apparatus comprising:

a vacuum generator configured for use in dermal abrasion and massage of a patient, the vacuum generator coupled to:

a dermabrasion hand piece of a dermal abrasion system, the dermal abrasion system further comprising:

a feeding chamber that has a generally funnel-shaped portion that receives an abrasive material from a source for use in the dermal abrasion;

a receiving channel that limits the amount of abrasive material supplied to the feeding chamber;

an intake aperture, connected to a base of the feeding chamber to receive means for displacing the abrasive material in a substantially vertical direction; and

a delivery channel, placed above the feeding chamber to receive the displaced abrasive, and coupled to the dermabrasion hand piece; and

a massage head of a massage system, the massage a-head that defines a cavity and an opening to the cavity, wherein the massage system head is coupled to the vacuum generator is configured to create a negative pressure within the cavity, and wherein the massage head includes a first contact surface to the patient; and, and wherein the massage system further includes a post coupled to

the massage head and positioned within the cavity, the post being static relative to the massage head during massage and having a second contact surface to the patient.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 33 further comprising a generally funnel-shaped supply device, positioned above the feeding chamber and connected to the receiving channel.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 33 wherein the apparatus is pneumatically driven.

37. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 33 wherein the funnel-shape of the ~~feeding~~ feeding chamber forms an arc ranging approximately 40 degrees to 90 degrees.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 33 wherein the funnel-shape of the feeding chamber forms an arc of generally 60 degrees.

39. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 36 further comprising an airflow regulator, coupled to the delivery channel, to regulate ~~the~~ a flow of the abrasive material during operation.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 33 wherein the delivery channel comprises an inverted funnel-shaped opening within the feeding chamber.

41. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 33 further comprising a transition chamber disposed between the ~~supply device~~ source and the feeding chamber.

42. (Currently Amended) A dermabrasion and massage apparatus comprising:
a vacuum generator;
a massage head defining a cavity and coupled to the vacuum generator, wherein
the massage head in combination with the vacuum generator is configured
to provide an effleurage-like massage; and
~~a delivery and retrieval hand piece coupled to the vacuum generator;~~
~~a dermabrasive handling device, coupled to the hand piece~~ dermabrasion system ;
comprising: (i) a dermabrasion hand piece coupled to the vacuum
generator and configured to deliver an abrasive material, (ii) an
dermabrasive material supply device, (iii) a receiving channel; coupled to
the supply device, (iv) a feeding chamber; coupled to the receiving
channel, (v) a delivery channel; coupled to the feeding chamber and to
the dermabrasion hand piece, and (vi) a waste debris receiving device;
coupled to the dermabrasion hand piece and to the vacuum generator; to

collect and store waste debris and the delivered dermabrasive material after treatment.

43. (Currently Amended) The dermabrasion and massage apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the ~~A dermabrasion hand piece for use in a dermabrasion and massage system to deliver and retrieve an abrasive to and from a site to be abraded during a procedure, the hand piece comprising:~~ comprises a body having a first end, a second end, a ~~delivery channel, a retrieval channel, the delivery channel being concentric with the retrieval channel and extending the length of the body,~~ a delivery aperture, communicatively coupled to the first end and to the delivery channel, ~~and a retrieval aperture; communicatively coupled to the first end and to the a retrieval channel, and concentric with the delivery aperture; and a dermabrasion tip having a first end, which~~ that removably mounts to the first end of the hand piece body, ~~a second end, a delivery aperture in the second end that is communicatively coupled with the body delivery aperture and the body retrieval aperture.~~

44. (Currently Amended) The dermabrasion and massage apparatus hand piece according to claim 43 wherein the delivery channel includes an intake aperture and the retrieval channel includes an outlet aperture, both intake and outlet apertures positioned at the second end of the body with the intake aperture concentric with the delivery channel and the outlet aperture offset from the intake aperture.

45. (Currently Amended) The dermabrasion and massage apparatus ~~hand piece~~ according to claim 44 wherein the tip is generally dome-shaped.

46. (Currently Amended) The dermabrasion and massage apparatus ~~hand piece~~ according to claim 44 wherein the delivery channel comprises a hollow tube coupled between the first and second ends of the hand piece body.

47. (Currently Amended) The dermabrasion and massage apparatus ~~hand piece~~ according to claim 46 wherein the hollow tube is removable.

48. (Currently Amended) The dermabrasion and massage apparatus ~~hand piece~~ according to claim 47 wherein the hand piece body comprises a middle portion and an end portion removably connected to the middle portion.

49. (Currently Amended) The dermabrasion and massage apparatus ~~hand piece~~ according to claim 44 further comprising a nozzle placed at the first end of the hand piece body adjacent the delivery aperture with an opening through which the abrasive material passes.

50. (Currently Amended) The dermabrasion and massage apparatus ~~hand piece~~ according to claim 44 further comprising a nose tube, concentric with the delivery channel and removably attached to the first end of the hand piece body.

51. (Currently Amended) The dermabrasion and massage apparatus ~~hand~~
~~piece~~ according to claim 44 further comprising an O-ring mounted on the first end of the
body.

52. (Currently Amended) A ~~waste debris collection and massage device for use in a~~ dermabrasion and massage system device, the device comprising:

a vacuum generator ~~coupled to a head having a cavity, wherein the vacuum generator is configured to collect the waste debris and to provide a negative pressure that is used in providing the a~~ message;

a massage head of a massage system that includes the vacuum generator, the massage head defining a cavity and an opening to the cavity, wherein the massage system is configured to create a negative pressure within the cavity that is used in providing the message;

a dermabrasion hand piece of a dermal abrasion system that includes the vacuum generator, the dermal abrasion system further comprising:

a feeding chamber that has a generally funnel-shaped portion that receives an abrasive material from a source for use in the dermal abrasion;

a receiving channel that limits the amount of abrasive material supplied to the feeding chamber;

an intake aperture, connected to a base of the feeding chamber to receive means for displacing the abrasive material in a substantially vertical direction;

a delivery channel, placed above the feeding chamber to receive the displaced abrasive, and coupled to the dermabrasion hand piece;

a waste can receiver coupled to the head having an intake port and a return port dermabrasion hand piece;

a waste canister removably coupled to the waste can receiver at an open end of the waste canister; and

a filter disposed between the waste can receiver and the waste canister such that ~~the~~an intake port of the dermabrasion system passes through the filter and the filter prevents waste debris from exiting the waste canister through ~~the~~a return port.

53. (Currently Amended) The ~~waste debris collection~~ device according to claim 52 further comprising a filter frame ~~used~~configured to support and retain the filter in position between the waste can receiver and the waste canister and having an aperture through which the intake port passes.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently Amended) The ~~waste debris collection~~ device according to claim 52 further comprising pliable retention prongs to secure the filter between the waste canister and the waste canister receiver to prevent air-bleeding at the filter location.

56. (Currently Amended) The ~~waste debris collection system~~ device according to claim 53 wherein the filter is removable.

57. (Currently Amended) The ~~waste debris collection system~~ device according to claim 53 wherein the waste canister further comprises a removable lid to seal the waste canister upon removal from the waste can receiver.

58. (Currently Amended) The ~~waste debris collection system~~ device according to claim 53 wherein the filter comprises a fabric having pores ~~sufficiently small enough to that~~ prevent ~~abrasive and collected~~ the waste debris from passing therethrough.

59. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for selectively performing dermabrasion or massaging, comprising:

~~means for generating negative pressure;~~

a vacuum generator;

a massage device, coupled to and operable by the ~~generating means~~vacuum generator, comprising:

a massage head; and

a handle, coupled to the massage head ~~and the generating means~~; and

a dermabrasion device, coupled to and operable by the ~~generating means~~vacuum generator, comprising:

a dermabrasion delivery and retrieval hand piece for delivery and retrieval of an abrasive material;

an abrasive material source device;

a dermabrasive handling device, coupled to the source device and to the hand piece; and;

a waste debris receiving device, coupled to the hand piece, to collect and store waste debris and the ~~dermabrasive~~ delivered abrasive material after treatment.

60. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 59 wherein the dermabrasive handling device gravity feeds the ~~dermabrading~~ abrasive material to ~~the~~ a feeding chamber.

61. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~59~~ 60 wherein ~~the~~ a receiving channel extends within the feeding chamber a sufficient distance to control ~~the~~ an amount of ~~dermabrasive~~ abrasive material entering the feeding chamber.

62. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~59~~ 60 wherein the feeding chamber comprises a generally funnel shaped chamber in which the ~~dermabrasive~~ abrasive material is lofted during operation.

63. (Canceled)

64. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~59~~ 60 wherein ~~the~~ a delivery channel connects to an inverted generally funnel-shaped collector channel to receive the ~~dermabrasive~~ abrasive material within the feeding chamber and direct it to the delivery channel.

65. (Canceled)

66. (Canceled)

67. (Canceled)

68. (Currently Amended) The apparatus claimed in claim 59 wherein the massage head ~~further~~ comprises one or more substantially flat contact surfaces to enable the massage device to deliver an effleurage-like massage.

69. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 59 wherein the massage head ~~further~~ comprises a rim ~~and the rim that~~ has a substantially flat contact surface ~~that~~ and enables a substantially air tight seal ~~and enables an effleurage-like massage.~~

70. (Canceled)

71. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a skin surface comprising:
actuating a vacuum generator to selectively operate (i) a massage system, and (ii)
a dermabrasion system;
using the vacuum generator in combination with the a massage ~~device~~ system to
deliver ~~perform~~ a deep tissue massage on a patient across a section of the
patient's skin; and

using the vacuum generator in combination with the a dermabrasion system~~device~~
to ~~perform~~deliver a dermabrasion treatment across the section of the
patient's skin.

72. (Currently Amended) The method for treating a skin surface according to
claim 71 wherein the delivery of the deep tissue massage ~~performing step~~ comprises:

using the vacuum generator in combination with a massage head to generate~~ing~~ an
area of negative pressure on the patient's skin surface, the area of negative
pressure defined by a perimeter of positive pressure; and
applying a second positive pressure radially interior to the perimeter;
~~moving the area of negative pressure defined by the positive pressure perimeter
along the surface of the skin while continuing to apply the second positive
pressure in the area under negative pressure.~~

73. (Currently Amended) The method for treating a skin surface according to
claim 71 wherein the delivery of the dermabrasion treatment ~~step~~ comprises:

~~generating an area of negative pressure on the skin, the area of negative pressure
defined by a perimeter of positive pressure;~~
drawing dermabrasive~~abrasive~~ material from the dermabrasion system ~~within the
area of negative pressure on the skin to cause the dermabrasive material to
abrade the skin surface; and~~

using the negative pressure from the vacuum generator to ~~remove~~ collect the
dermabrasive drawn abrasive material and abraded skin debris to a refuse
container.